

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 24-31 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 shows a sealing device 1 including a compression-expandable plug 1' comprising a pair of compression plates 3 and 5, each of which has a plurality of apertures 7 extending through the plate, through which elongate articles (not shown) may extend during use. Between the compression plates 3 and 5 is a support 9 in the form of a synthetic rubber flexible sheet. The support 9 has attached thereto (and in fact integrally moulded with the sheet) a plurality of second sealing elements 11a in the form of tubes that project from a major surface of the support. Because of the perspective of the drawing, the second sealing elements 11a are not visible in Figure 1, however, they are shown in cross-section in Figure 2.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 9-18 with the following amended paragraph:

An additional and/or complementary aspect of the compression-expandable plugs 1' is the aforementioned use of compression-expandable plugs to seal around and secure mini-tubes in optical fibre cable ducts. Embodiments of the present invention including such a feature will now be described in more detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying perspective drawings, in which corresponding parts are correspondingly numbered. Figure 5 illustrates a plug 50 designed to seal up to five mini-tubes of 10mm diameter in an optical fibre duct. Figure 6 illustrates a plug designed to seal up to ten mini-tubes of 7mm diameter in an optical fibre duct. The ducts are omitted in both figures for clarity. The size of the mini-tubes is not critical, and the number may be as high as, for example, twenty-four (24) in some embodiments.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 19-25 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 5 and 6, a central tubular gasket 53 of flexible elastomer or other suitable material, such as chloroprene rubber, has a desired number of axial passages 531 for receiving the mini-tubes to be sealed and a central axial bore 532 for receiving a compression bolt 51. Blank filler rods may be inserted to close any of the gasket passages that are not occupied by one of the mini-tubes of the optical fibre cable. The gasket passages 531 may each have an axially- or lengthwise-extending slit 533 communicating laterally with the exterior of the gasket to allow lateral insertion of a mini-tube into each passage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 26 through page 9, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The axial length of the gasket is not critical, but may be selected by simple trial and error to seal effectively in the conditions encountered in practice. Gasket lengths within the range of about 50 millimeters (mm) to about 80 mm or within the range of about 60 mm to about 70 mm have been found advantageous in practice in some embodiments of the present invention. The laterally-extending slits 533 may be sloped or curved to enable them to be positioned extending in an anti-clockwise sense as viewed looking toward the open end of the duct into which the plug is inserted. This anti-clockwise orientation may resist undesirable opening of the slits by clockwise turning forces that may be transmitted to the gasket during clockwise tightening of the gasket compression means, for example as hereinafter described (or the opposite arrangement for counter-clockwise tightening configurations).

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 4-13 with the following amended paragraph:

A compression member 52 of relatively rigid moulded plastics or other material, such

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as polyoxymethylene, may be provided at each end of the gasket 53, each compression member having recesses 521 corresponding with the passages 531 of the gasket and projections 525 extending between the recesses 521 to an extent approaching the outer circumference of the gasket 53. The compression members also have a central aperture 522, whereby the plug can be assembled with a compression bolt 51 of metal or engineering plastics passing through the central bore 532 of the gasket and the central apertures 522 of the compression members positioned at each end of the gasket. The mini-tubes may, in use, extend through the respective passages 531 and recesses 521 of the gasket and compression members.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 14-19 with the following amended paragraph:

The plug assembly may be completed by screwing the long nut 54 onto the thread 511 of the compression bolt 51. The nut 54 may be constructed with a blind threaded bore [[31]] 541 of limited depth in order to limit the applied compression and resulting radial expansion of the gasket as the nut and bolt draw the two compression members 52 towards each other. In this way, the compression applied to the mini-tubes by the radially expanding gasket may be limited to selected safe levels.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 20-28 with the following amended paragraph:

The plug may be inserted into the optical fibre duct, from the open end of which the mini-tubes project, by sliding along the mini-tubes after they have been positioned in the passages 531 and recesses 521 of the assembled plug. Liquid soap solution, or other suitable lubricant, may be used to assist this operation. An end of the gasket may be marked (B) to ensure that it is positioned toward the head of the bolt 51 that is inserted first into the duct, which may align the preferred sloping or curved slits 533 in the anti-clockwise sense for the

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aforementioned reasons in a clockwise tightening configuration. The bolt head and the bolt-receiving apertures 522 in the compression members may be formed to limit or even prevent rotation of the bolt relative to the compression members during tightening of the nut 54.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 29 through page 10, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The nut 54 may have an external length sufficient to facilitate engaging it by hand (initially) or with a suitable spanner or other tool inserted between the mini-tubes extending from the plug. The nut can thereby be tightened to compress and seal the gasket inside the cable duct and can subsequently be unscrewed and pulled to loosen and withdraw the plug from the duct. The mini-tubes tend to be fairly stiff and could hinder access to shorter nuts or necessitate special tools for these purposes.